

Bus Working Group

John I Smith
TransBus International

Government's Target

“By 2012, 600 or more buses coming into operation per year will be low carbon, defined as 30% below current average carbon emissions”

Source: Powering Future Vehicles: The Government Strategy July 2002

Para 2.1 2

Pre-requisites for delivery of Target

- **Compatible costs**

Capital + Running costs over a 5-7 year period must be similar to equivalent modern diesel bus (after initial launch phase)

- **Operational Tests**

Buses need to be able to be launched in 2004/5 so that 3 years of operational experience can be gained before gearing up to production of 600+ per year

Working arrangements

- **Target committee:**

- Established acceptance criteria (Well to Wheel) reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Defined Test conditions using London Route 159

- **Regulatory & Fiscal committee:**

- Identified that Manufacturers, Operators, Local Authorities and Government need to mutually commit to the introduction of Low Carbon Buses
- Identified need for a Launch Grant

Interim Report - July 2003

- **Set out the work done with rationale**
- **Asked Government to comment on the direction taken and to specifically:**
 - **To set up and fund an acceptance test**
 - **To announce that grants will be available**
 - **To encourage local authorities to promote Low Carbon Buses**
 - **To review Bus Service Operator's Grant and eliminate the negative effect of subsidised diesel fuel on the uptake of Low Carbon buses**

Government Response

The Minister, Tony McNulty, unveiled the Low Carbon Bus Programme at NEC on 23rd September 2003:

- **Accepted test and definition of low carbon bus**
- **Authorised EST to verify precise criteria figures**
- **Provided £ 3.0 million grant funding to cover first 150 low carbon buses**
- **Invited consortia of Operators and Manufacturers to submit bids by 31st December**

Progress to date

- **First 3 manufacturers have announced and/or shown low carbon buses**
- **First consortium has applied for funding**
- **Funding application deadline extended into 2004 & 2005 or until fund used up**

Objectives for 2004

- **Promote the take up of the Low Carbon Bus Programme**
- **Solve the problem of the Bus Service Operator's Grant**
- **Obtain the maximum involvement of Local Authorities**